

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 04740 160633 Z

15 66

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 160355 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1286

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAN THO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 4740

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REFERENCES ADDED)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB, VS

SUBJECT: 32 ND FANK BRIGADE

REF: A. STATE 092247

B. STATE 092216

1. GIVEN FANK' S URGENT NEED FOR TROOPS IN THE CENTER OF THE COUNTRY, IT MAKES NO RPT NO SENSE TO CONTINUE TO SPEND THE MEN AND RESOURCES REQUIRED TO SUSTAIN THE 32 ND BRIGADE AS A PURELY SYMBOLIC " BRIDGEHEAD" ON THE VIETNAMESE BORDER. FOR TWO MONTHS NOW THIS UNIT HAS BARELY BEEN ABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF, LET ALONE OFFER PROTECTION FOR ANY SIGNIFICANT CIVILIAN POPULATION; IT HAS WITHDRAWN TO VIETNAM AS A RESULT. WE ALSO THINK SCARCE AIR RESOURCES ARE BETTER USED FOR AIR DROPS TO OTHER ISOLATED FANK UNITS IN MORE IMPORTANT AREAS.

2. BY LOCAL COUNT FANK HELICOPTERS HAVE MOVED 370 MILITARY PERSONNEL AS OF MAY 15 EVENING.

3. IN OUR VIEW THIS AFFAIR HAS ALREADY BECOME A VERY
SECRET

SECRET

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COMPLICATED MATTER, WITH ACTION ESSENTIALLY RESTING WITH
THE GKR AND GVN AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ARMED FORCES. OUR
PROPOSAL IS THEREFORE TO PUT THIS ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF
THE TRIPARTITE DEPUTIES MEETING, WHICH IS FORTUITOUSLY
MEETING AT PHNOM PENH MAY 18, AND LET THE VIETNAMESE
AND KHMER WORK ON A JOINT SOLUTION.
SWANK

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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